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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAmendments to the Claims:

JUL 17 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell (1)-suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,
- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution (A)-of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution (A),
- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof,
- discharging the first electrolyte solution (A)-remaining between the cuttings from the cell,
- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution (B)-of known conductivity (σ_B),
- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution (B)-and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution (A),
- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor (FF)-from the previous

conductivity measurements and known conductivities of the first and second electrolyte solutions.

2) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein - saturating the cuttings are saturated with carbon dioxide by injection of this gas into the cell, prior to then~~

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution (A) of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ_A^*) of the cell with the content thereof,

- discharging the first electrolyte solution remaining between the cuttings from the cell,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B),

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ_B^*) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

3) (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte solutions are brines of different concentrations.

4) (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the concentration and the conductivity of first electrolyte solution (A)-are higher than those of second solution-(B).

5) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell.

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ_A^*) of the cell with the content thereof,

~~as claimed in claim 1, wherein - discharging the first electrolyte solution (A)-remaining between the cuttings is discharged from the cell by gravity draining,~~

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B).

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution.

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

6) (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein first electrolyte solution (A) is discharged by air injection.

7) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the pressure of the air injected is determined according to the pore size of the cuttings.

8) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein gravity drainage is improved by capillary desorption.

9) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein capillary desorption is carried out by means of a semipermeable membrane allowing passage of the first electrolyte solution but not of air.

10) (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formation factor is determined from the mean field theory.

11) (Currently Amended) A device for implementing the-a method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising

at least the following stages: cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell, filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution, measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_A) of the cell with the content thereof, discharging the first electrolyte solution remaining between the cuttings from the cell, filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B), determining the global electrical conductivity (σ^*_B) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution, deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it the device comprises:

- means of saturating the cuttings contained in the cell with CO₂,
- means intended for fast draining of the electrolyte solution contained between the cuttings.

12) (Original) A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein said draining means comprise a semipermeable membrane permeable to the brine and impermeable to air.

13) (Currently Amended) A method of determining the formation factor of an underground zone from drill cuttings taken to the wellbore surface, wherein a device including a cell suited to contain cuttings and provided with electrodes connected to a device for measuring the conductivity of the cell content is used, the method comprising at least the following stages:

- cleaning said cuttings before setting them in the cell,

- filling the cell with a first electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_A) so as to saturate the cuttings with this first electrolyte solution,

- measuring the global electrical conductivity (σ_A^*) of the cell with the content thereof,

as claimed in claim 1 wherein - discharging the first electrolyte solution (A) is discharged remaining between the cuttings from the cell by air injection,

- filling the cell with a second electrolyte solution of known conductivity (σ_B);

- determining the global electrical conductivity (σ_B^*) of the cell containing second electrolyte solution and the cuttings saturated with first electrolyte solution,

- deducing therefrom the cuttings formation factor from the previous measurements.

14) (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the pressure of the air injected is determined according to the pore size of the cuttings.